

In the specification: Please amend paragraphs [0014], [0020], [0033], and [0035] of the specification as follows.

[0014] Still further provided is a composition comprising an abrasive having a surface on which at least one stabilizer and at least one catalyst are bonded, wherein the abrasive is a member selected from the group consisting of alumina, titania, zirconia, germania, silica, ceria and mixtures thereof, the at least one stabilizer comprises at least one element ~~member~~ selected from the group consisting of B, W and Al, and the at least one catalyst comprises at least one element ~~member~~ selected from the group consisting of Cu, Fe, Mn, Ti, W and V, provided that the at least one stabilizer and the at least one catalyst are not simultaneously W.

[0020] Still further provided is a method for polishing a surface of a substrate, said method comprising applying the composition of the invention to the surface of the substrate to polish the surface of the substrate, wherein the substrate comprises at least one element ~~member~~ selected from the group consisting of W, Ti, Cu, Ta, Si, Ga, As, C and N, more preferably a member selected from the group consisting of W, Ti, TiN, Ta, TaN, Cu and SiO₂.

[0033] Compositions of the invention further comprise at least one stabilizer. As used herein, the term "stabilizer" means an agent effective to help maintain the abrasive as a sol in an aqueous medium. Suitable stabilizers are compounds which include ~~metals and borderline metals, such as, e.g.,~~ non-metallic boron, aluminum and titanium, with boron being most preferred.

[0035] In particularly preferred embodiments, the inventive composition comprises a ~~bimetallic~~ surface-modified colloidal abrasive containing ~~as the two metals~~ on the surface of the abrasive: a stabilizer comprising boron and a catalyst comprising iron; a stabilizer comprising boron and a catalyst comprising copper; or a catalyst comprising iron and a stabilizer comprising tungsten. (It should be apparent from the foregoing that the terms "metal" and "bimetallic" as used herein in the context of surface modification are intended to encompass ~~borderline metals, such as non-metallic~~ boron, as well as more prototypical metals.) Other combinations of metals are also possible, as are combinations of metals and non-metals (e.g., the non-metals/organics and inorganic-organic combinations taught by copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/315,398, filed Dec. 9, 2002.) Phosphorus is a particularly preferred non-metal suitable for use in mixed metal/non-metal surface-modified abrasives of the invention.